

I'm sure God may have something to say about the President's failure to preserve peace in the effort to disarm Iraq. But, we do know what the Bible says, Mr. Speaker: "blessed are the peacemakers."

Most major religious organizations in the world—the Vatican, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Protestant religious groups—oppose war in Iraq on moral grounds. Yet, this resolution seeks to deflect moral criticism from the President's immoral act of war, and despite his refusal to listen to the leaders of his own faith. Regardless, religion is not an area for Congressional debate.

I respect the right of everyone to reflect on these difficult events as they see fit. I understand the value of people of various religions or moral convictions finding resolve in their beliefs or faiths during this trying time. That is everyone's right. However, this resolution today has Congress encouraging all Americans, regardless of their beliefs, to engage in specific religious acts that are Christian in nature.

Our country was founded on the principles of free expression and religious liberty. The Constitution requires that Congress must not legislate religion, but instead honor the diversity of convictions and beliefs in our nation. This resolution fails to respect the separation of church and state and to uphold our commitment to honor religious diversity. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
JOSE GUTIERREZ

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, who was one of the first Americans to give his life in battle during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the heroism of this young man.

Corporal Gutierrez was a symbol of America's promise. Born in Guatemala, Jose lost his parents at a young age and spent years on the streets in his home country. He came to the United States seeking a better life, and after moving around a bit, found a home with foster parents in Lomita, California, a small town in my congressional district.

Jose attended local schools—North High School in Torrance and Harbor College in Wilmington—playing soccer and hoping one day to study architecture. His foster brother told local newspapers that "he joined the Marines to pay back a little of what he'd gotten from the U.S."

Mr. Speaker, it makes me proud to learn about the passionate feelings this young man had for his adopted country. Undoubtedly, they are feelings shared by hundreds or perhaps thousands of the other young men and women who volunteered for military service and are now participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I am proud too of the citizens of Lomita, who immediately began to organize tributes to Corporal Gutierrez, including plans to add his name to the memorial to fallen soldiers adjacent to the local post office, requesting that

post office to fly its flag at half-mast, and launching a drive to fly 82 U.S. flags in honor of all of Lomita's fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Corporal Gutierrez's ultimate sacrifice underscores for us how fragile and how precious are the freedoms we enjoy. He died to keep us free.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STAN SHURMANTINE, RET.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Stan Shurmantine, of Lexington, MO, who recently retired from the United States Army Reserves after 28 years.

On February 28, 2003, Stan ended an outstanding career in the Army Reserves. Through the years, he has dedicated himself to serving the American people.

Currently, Stan serves as the manager of IBS Industries, Inc., in Independence, MO. IBS honored Stan's military service with a reception, which was attended by 250 guests.

Stan in addition to his military service, has served his home community of Lexington, where he lives with his wife Marcie. He is a councilman and also serves as mayor pro-tem.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Stan Shurmantine has honored the United States Army Reserves with service for 28 years. As he continues his work at IBS Industries, Inc. and the city of Lexington, I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL VEACH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Darrell Veach of Cortez, Colorado. Darrell is a dedicated citizen and leader of the Cortez community and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Darrell is a third-generation stockman and a Korean War veteran who began his career raising sheep before becoming a cowboy. He is well known throughout the community as a good steward of his land and the environment. In addition to Darrell's ranching activities, his service to the local community goes back over thirty years with the Boy Scouts, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Montezuma County Planning Commission, and the Colorado Cattleman's Association. The Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association, of which Darrell is a board member and past president, honored him as its 2003 Stockman of the Year. A proud family man, Darrell shares his love for the outdoors with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Darrell Veach before this body of Congress

and this great nation for his dedication and leadership within his community. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of Cortez and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Darrell the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DIGILIO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Digilio as Chef de Chemin de Fer of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. The "Forty and Eight," as it is popularly known, is an independent fraternal organization of veterans comprised of approximately 50,000 veterans from World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. The members of the "Forty and Eight" dedicate much of their time to their Child Welfare Program, Nurses Scholarship Trust Fund, as well as many activities dedicated to Americanism, respect for the flag, the Constitution and Law and Order.

Chef Digilio grew up in Bay Shore, New York and entered active duty in the United States Army in 1969. From 1970–1971 he served in the 95th Evacuation Hospital, DaNang, Republic of Vietnam. After his return to the United States, he entered the New York Army National Guard and worked his way up the ranks to senior commander of all medical units by 1986. On December 1, 1996, John was brevetted and placed on the New York State Retired List as brigadier general by the Governor of New York upon his retirement from military service.

I am most grateful for Chef Digilio's dedicated service to our county over the last 34 years. In this time of war, especially, it is critical that we take the time to show our support for America's men and women who have served in uniform. I wish the "Forty and Eight" a festive and enjoyable Homecoming this upcoming weekend.

REVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER LIMITING ACCESS TO
PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a simple bill to revoke Executive Order 13233, "Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act," which President Bush issued on November 1, 2001. My bill would replace this Order with President Reagan's 1989 implementing Executive Order 12267. During the 107th Congress, on April 11, 2002, Representative STEVE HORN introduced the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2002" (H.R. 4187). I co-sponsored this bi-partisan bill. The Government Reform Committee held hearings on the Bush Order and then, after introduction, on Mr. HORN's bill. On October 9th, the House Government Reform Committee reported out an amended version of this bill. On